(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 68 MIG; 6 Jaguar, 4 Sea Harrier and one Kiran fighter planes have crashed since April, 1994.

(b) and (c) A Court/Board of Inquiry is ordered in every accident to find out the causes. Most of these accidents are attributed to Technical Defects/Human Error. Further, a High Powered Committee on fighter aircraft accident was constituted under the chairmanship of Scientific Adviser to RM to analyse the causes of the accidents which submitted its report in September, 1997. It has made recommendations to minimise accident rate. Implementation of these recommendations would involve changes in organisational structure, procedures, training design, technology etc. Necessary instructions have been issued to the agencies/Departments concerned to take suitable action in terms of the recommendations of the Committee.

Re-orientation of Civil Defence

1100. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for re-orientation of Civil Defence and make its training compulsory for school and college students to equip them to handle emergencies not only during war time but also for rendering rescue and relief services during disasters;

(b) if so, the details of comprehensive action plan proposed to be implemented; and

(c) the details of changes perceived in the Civil Defence Act, 1968?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Considering the importance attached to the Civil Defence tranining in schools/colleges, the Ministry of Home Affairs had taken up the matter with the Ministry of Human Resource Development for introducing Civil Defence/Civil Protection in the curriculum of schools, colleges and Universities as compulsory activity. As a follow up action, the Ministry of Human Resource Development have written to schools and the University division and concerned organisation for its implementation. A comprehensive action plan for Civil Defence activity in schools/colleges would be drawn by the concerned authorities. As regards use of Civil Defence volunteers for rescue and relief operations, these volunteers are trained to such activities and they are utilised as and when the need if felt. So far there has been no amendment to the Civil Defence Act, 1968.

Accidents during training of pilots

1101. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents taken place during the flying training of trainee pilots in the Air Force during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) whether it is a fact that many of the aircrafts used for training have long exhausted threir normal period of time; and

(c) whether the Indian Air Force has taken sufficient measures to reduce the accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There were two accidents each during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 which took place during the flying training of trainee pilots in Air Force.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Accidents and their cause factors are continuously reviewed and analysed by the Air Force. Remedial measures are accordingly taken which is a continuous process.